



Town of Concord, Massachusetts
22 Monument Square, Concord, MA 01742

Concord Historical Commission Meeting Minutes 03-10-16

Present: Geoffrey Taylor (Chair), Annette Bagley, Andrew Koh, Electa Tritsch, Diann Strausberg, and Claire Gauthier (Associate)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with one addition: Assabet Avenue Drainage Project

Review/Discuss Demolition Review Bylaw; Preparation for Demolition Review Bylaw Presentation for Town Meeting

Mr. Taylor distributed copies of a preliminary PowerPoint presentation on Warrant Article 32 – Demolition Review Bylaw which will be presented at Town Meeting. Members reviewed the presentation and provided feedback. A number of additions, eliminations, and format changes were suggested. Mr. Taylor will rework the presentation material and submit it to members for final review.

The committee compiled a list of various Town committees and boards that would be sought for support of the Warrant Article. These include, Board of Selectman, Planning Board, West Concord Advisory Committee, Housing Foundation, and Conservation Land Trust. The Historic District Commission (HDC) strongly supports the Article.

Mr. Taylor reported that he has started to receive notices from the Building Division when a permit for demolition is submitted. Most of the recent demolitions were for small, mid-twentieth century homes which would not be included as part of the delay using either a 100-year or 75-year deadline. Ms. Tritsch noted that the issue with the loss of mid-twentieth century structures involved the change in the overall character of the area rather than the significance of the individual structure.

Mr. Koh suggested the CHC publicize more clearly the temporary nature of the delay and focus on the positive elements of the bylaw such as documentation. Ms. Tritsch noted that since the CHC was proposing to extend the delay from six months to a year, it would be helpful to explain why six months was not long enough to discourage demolition. Mr. Taylor asked members to suggest questions that could be raised. Ms. Bagley agreed to compile the questions and create a FAQ document as a Town Meeting handout

Preservations Awards Update

Ms. Bagley reported that six nominations were submitted. A presentation she gave to the HDC was favorable.

Assabet Avenue Drainage Project

Ms. Tritsch informed the CHC of the Assabet Avenue Drainage Improvement Project. Concerns include the effects the project will have on the aesthetics of the Assabet River which has a Wild and Scenic River designation.

Other Business

No material discussion was held.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Bagley

Minutes Approved on: June 9, 2016

